



COLUMBUS CITY COUNCIL Agenda Highlights for March 30, 2009

For More Information:

John Ivanic, Communications Director
(614) 645-6798

COUNCIL HELPING RESTORE RECREATIONAL PROGRAMMING: Two months after 11 recreation centers were closed in a cost-cutting measure to pass a balanced budget, City Council has drafted legislation to enter into agreements to reopen, or begin limited services, at seven of the centers. The legislation also continues the modest level of funding set aside each year for community festivals through the Partnership through Sponsoring Program. *Ordinance 0457-2009*, sponsored by Recreation and Parks Committee Chair [Priscilla R. Tyson](#), authorizes the transfer of \$618,000 from the Hotel/Motel Excise Tax fund, commonly referred to as the bed tax fund, to help community partners operate the centers. According to city code, a maximum of 1.5% of the bed tax may be used for the purpose of “expanding cultural services for the enrichment of the community.” The decision to allocate resources from the bed tax fund, which is separate from the General Revenue Fund that pays for the city’s operating expenses, derived from the recommendation of a joint work group comprised of staff from City Council and Mayor Michael B. Coleman’s administration. [Download](#) a copy of the legislation, which outlines how the funding will be appropriated.

CRAIG HOLDING YARD WASTE PUBLIC HEARING: Councilmember [Hearcel F. Craig](#), chair of the Public Service and Transportation Committee, will convene a public hearing on Thursday, April 2, 2009 at 5:30 p.m. in City Council Chambers to hear Mayor Coleman’s proposal to provide yard waste collection. Those who wish to address City Council are welcome to submit a speaker slip at City Hall on the day of the meeting. [Review](#) a copy of the legislation that will be discussed at the hearing.

FIREFIGHTERS GO BEYOND THE CALL OF DUTY: Staying true to the call of sacrifice inherent in their job, members of the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) Local 67 will honor their commitment to forgo the raise they were set to receive in 2009 to help the city balance the general fund budget. *Ordinance 0379-2009*, sponsored by Administration Committee Chair [A. Troy Miller](#), accepts the Memorandum of Understanding to defer the contractually-provided four percent (4%) wage increase for members of the IAFF bargaining unit. City Council would like to thank the Fire Fighters and their union president, Jack Reall, for their selfless action to help the city during the national economic crisis.

COMMUNITY CRIME PATROL KEEPS NEIGHBORHOODS SAFE: For 17 years the Community Crime Patrol (CCP) has assisted the Division of Police in monitoring Columbus neighborhoods and watching for signs of potential criminal activity. Public Safety Committee Chair [Andrew J. Ginther](#) continues City Council’s annual support of CCP by sponsoring *ordinance 0326-2009* to provide \$200,000 for trained staff to patrol the Hilltop, Franklinton, Merion Southwood, Ohio State University district, and several multi-use trails around the city. While a significant reduction in funding compared to 2008 and 2007, the contract will allow Community Crime Patrol to continue modified operations and represents the City’s ongoing commitment to the program and promoting neighborhood safety.

WORKING TO STABILIZE NEIGHBORHOODS IN CRISIS: In response to the housing mortgage meltdown, Columbus has been awarded \$22,845,495 of Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) grant funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Health, Housing & Human Services Committee Chair [Charleta B. Tavares](#) is sponsoring *ordinance 0363-2009* to authorize the expenditure of \$10,086,047 from the General Government Grant Fund to provide funding for the housing redevelopment portion of the Neighborhood Stabilization Program. This legislation will assist developers with grants and no- or low-interest loans for projects designed to reduce the number of vacant and abandoned properties.

SUPPLYING CLEAN AND DEPENDABLE DRINKING WATER: The Department of Public Utilities serves more than one million people with safe and dependable drinking water, environmentally sound wastewater treatment, and storm drainage systems. *Ordinance 0375-2009*, sponsored by Public Utilities Committee Chair [Eileen Y. Paley](#), appropriates \$11,878,430.80 to purchase water treatment chemicals and continues the city's effort to provide the highest quality drinking water to its residents. This legislation works in tandem with *ordinance 0208-2009*, sponsored by Councilmember Paley on March 2, 2009.

MENTEL SUPPORTING FRANKLINTON PRIDE CENTER: Neighborhood Pride Centers serve as direct links of communication between city government and the community. City Council President [Michael C. Mentel](#) is sponsoring *ordinance 0400-2009* to authorize the expenditure of \$10,287 from the Special Income Tax Fund to allow the Franklinton Pride Center to remain at its current location at 1186 West Broad Street. Acting as a one-stop shop, the Franklinton Pride Center provides residents with improved access to city services, better inter-agency communication, and the ability for residents to participate in identifying and addressing the specific needs of their neighborhood.